

# LASCA Leaves



Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

## LANDINGS AND PLANTS LINK AYRES HALL/DEMO GARDENS

**T**HE STEEP GRADE between the Ayres Hall of Environmental Education and the Demonstration Home Gardens will soon be replaced by a series of landings, stairs and planting pockets joining the two areas. The low walls of railroad ties and broken concrete in Chris Rosmini's design will surround landings paved with a chocolate brown masonry that blends with the dark brown ramada on the nearby Hall.

When the construction has been completed, the area will be planted with Australian-type shrubs that will further relate the transitional area to the eucalyptus and blue hibiscus that predominate around the Hall.

The California Landscape Contractors Association is providing the materials and labor for the project as part of their display for the Los Angeles Garden Show at the Arboretum in October. This project, one of several sponsored by the organization over the years, will benefit Arboretum visitors long after the show has closed.

Rose Marie Head, president of the association, said that the follow-

ing CLCA members contributed to this project:

Glenn Koyama, Harold Britton, Henry Soto, Carole White, Bob Cornell, Charles Nunley, Howard Folk-

man, Haruo Yamashiro, Olympic Nursery, Aka-Tani Landscape Co., Professional Landscaping, Champion Sprinkler Co., Marsan Turf and Irrigation Co. and Tom Matsuoka.



LuAnn B. Munns

*Dust flies as the landscaping between the Ayres Hall of Environmental Education and the Demonstration Home Gardens takes shape.*



## PRUNING REVEALS REMNANT OF RANCHO SANTA ANITA INC.

**A** RANCHO SANTA ANITA remnant dating back 50 years to the time when Harry Chandler owned the land has been uncovered on an irrigation control gate six feet into the water on the east side of Lasca Lagoon. Palm fronds that hid the two-foot square sign for so many years have been cut away, clearly revealing this relatively unworn warning sign and the century-old gate erected by E. J. Baldwin that supports it. The discovery seemed to surprise everyone except the historical curator at the Arboretum, Sandy Snider.

"I've been aware of it for several

years now and didn't really mind the overgrowth. The palm fronds protected the sign from weather damage and vandalism," she said.

Harry Chandler, publisher of the Los Angeles Times, headed a real estate syndicate known as Rancho Santa Anita, Inc. that bought the property from Baldwin's daughter Anita in 1936 and then posted 12 warning signs on the ranch. According to Ms. Snider, the signs were placed at ranch entrances and exits, the Queen Anne Cottage, Coach Barn, Hugo Reid Adobe and the Boathouse site.

The irrigation gate actually stands several yards north of the original irrigation outlet. When Baldwin owned the ranch he constructed sev-

eral reservoirs that supplemented the storage capacity of the natural lake to hold water he channeled down from the mountains. Besides the lake, the others were located where the Santa Anita Racetrack now stands, one north of Santa Anita Avenue, one on Michillinda Avenue and another on Huntington Drive that is now the parking lot of the Elks Club.

During World War I, Anita Baldwin demonstrated her patriotic spirit by turning the reservoir on Huntington Drive into a swimming pool for the Balloon School officers stationed in the area.

All that remains of Baldwin's complex irrigation system is the wash — now lined with concrete — that borders the western edge of the Australian Section. From Chandler's Rancho Santa Anita, Inc. era there is even less — one small sign that reads "NO SWIMMING, Offenders will be Prosecuted."

## NANCY WILSON HEADLINES EVENING PICNIC-CONCERT

**V**ERSATILE SONGSTRESS Nancy Wilson will be the featured entertainer at the summer picnic and concert sponsored by the California Arboretum Foundation on July 14. CAF Trustee George Fasching said that he has also arranged for a 21 piece orchestra and a "surprise" comedian from Universal Amphitheatre to entertain as music fans enjoy the alfresco dinners they bring with them. Gates open at 6 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m.

The number of tickets available will be limited, according to Mr. Fasching. "We don't want to have so many people here that no one has a good time," he said. Call the Foundation office at (818) 447-8207 for information and reservations. Admission is \$11 for adults and \$6 for children under 12.



LuAnn B. Munns

*Visitors of all ages enjoy the play equipment which Sunset Magazine recently added to the Family Garden as the last part of the renovation of the Demonstration Home Gardens.*



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## ECOLOGY FERVOR FANNED AT ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR

**M**ORE THAN 4,000 enthusiastic youngsters, their parents and friends bounced into the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum on March 9 for the annual fact-and fun-filled Environmental Education Fair. They came to examine the exhibits of about 50 Southland organizations, utilities and governmental agencies overflowing Ayres Hall of Environmental Education.

Intrepid visitors petted snakes and tarantulas while the more cautious preferred to simply view the hawks, ferrets, coyotes and other wildlife. The inquisitive students also participated in hands-on projects.

Several hundred other elementary, junior and senior high school students competed in the "Nature Bowl" and "Ecological Treasure Hunt." For the "Nature Bowl," an environmental version of the televised "College Bowl," elementary

students filled the Lecture Hall for a series of questions geared to their respective ages. The winning team was the Ben Lomond school from the Covina Valley Unified School District.

The "Ecological Treasure Hunt" carried the excitement outdoors as 50 teams representing Southern California junior and senior high schools received a compass, map and a limerick clue that led them to four "EEF Stops" hidden throughout the entire 127 acres.



Fred Hudson

*George Troup, left, and Barbara Johnson hike among some of the interesting grasses growing on the superficially barren Kelso Dunes.*

## "BELLY FLOWERS" A HIT WITH DESERT SOJOURNERS

**A** LOT OF PEOPLE traveled a long way to see some very small flowers when Suzanne Granger took her spring class on a botanizing trip in the Mojave Desert. Field trips had been popular with the students all during her "California Wildflower Identification" class, but the weekend trip on April 20 and 21 was the highlight of the season. She led a group of 11 students on a sojourn that began amid the granite mountains and alkali lake around the Desert Study Center at Zzyzx, Cal.

The year around residents of this desert are mostly iguanas and snakes

such as the shy sidewinder that barely eluded Ms. Granger's footsteps. It is also a wildflower-lover's paradise. More than 150 species were identified in only two days.

"Out there you find all sorts of little jewels here and there," Ms. Granger said. "The area is much richer in species, in terms of diversity, than Antelope Valley."

Probably the favorites among the diverse plants they located were the low-growing "belly flowers" that can be best appreciated from a worm's eye perspective. Yerba mansa, the only member of an odd plant family to grow in California, was in full bloom by some alkali pools. The desert star was plentiful and the

prostrate desert calico were spotted by the group around the bed of ancient Lake Mojave.

Then they journeyed 30 miles southeast to Kelso, where the Mojave River formed Kelso Dunes thousands of years ago. Not only is the region known for its use by prehistoric Indians and the U.S. Cavalry, but also because of the many indigenous plants and interesting grasses growing there.

The only disappointment of the trip (aside from the deafening silence of the "barking sands") was the lack of variety of species at Kelso. Nonetheless, the enthusiastic Ms. Granger said, "I can't wait to go again with the next class."



# Baldwin Bonanza XV



A STREAMLINED VERSION of the annual benefit plant sale at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum began on an optimistic note May 4 with one of the largest crowds in 15 years at the preview party. According to Sandy (Mrs. Donald) Haven, chairman of Baldwin Bonanza XV, about 1,600 California Arboretum Foundation members and their guests enjoyed the snacks and early shopping Saturday evening.

On Sunday the usual crowd of area plant fans came to see what new and extraordinary plants the Arboretum had to offer. This year they found a special selection of blue-flowered perennials that Mrs. Haven termed "an incredible hit." "People went nuts over them," she said. "I don't think there was a single blue-flowered plant left by the end of the day."

Modified floor plans deployed the hard-working Las Voluntarias y Ayudantes workers in a slightly different arrangement this year. Instead of isolating booth chairmen and their cash boxes inside hollow squares, the plants were grouped together. This left the sales staff free to mingle with the crowd, offering assistance but sending buyers off to the central cashier booths after they made their selections.

Another change separated the plant consultant from the general information booth. Thus, Elaine (Mrs. John) Hoffman and her cohorts could concentrate on explaining the

sale layout to wandering visitors while Ruthe Betti, Baldwin Bonanza assistant chairman, and Arboretum staff members answered plant-related questions from eager but baffled customers.

Mrs. Haven hopes that when Mrs. Betti takes over Baldwin Bonanza XVI, these changes will lessen the strain on all the dedicated people who work so hard every year to make the sale a success.



*Ruthe Betti (left) helps Baldwin Bonanza Chairman Sandy (Mrs. Donald) Haven check the airworthiness of the balloons for sale.*





*Dee Uhl's hat attracts butterflies and raffle ticket customers.*



*TV personality Charles Haid carefully considers sun plants.*



*Flower spikes of the Australian grass-tree (*Xanthorrhoea quadrangulata*) and a displaying peacock distract a*



*This young lady is so attached to her cymbidium that the cashier placed a "paid" sticker on her hand instead of on the pot.*





helpful Boy Scout as he carts out customer's purchases. (Photos by Jim Johnson)



She savors her choice from the Children's Booth.



Although they have already amassed quite a collection, the small lookout checks to make sure that no treasures have been missed.



Carol (Mrs. Brian) O'Hare, left, and June (Mrs. Larry) Stoiber hurry to keep up with the demand in the balloon kiosk.



# LA County Honors Department's Volunteer of the Year



Nancy Dunn adjusts a badge awarded to her during the third annual Los Angeles County Volunteer of the Year Recognition Awards ceremony on April 22. The Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens nominated Mrs. Dunn in recognition of her many years of devoted service with the Descanso Gardens Guild. The County selection committee was so impressed by her implementation of numerous Guild projects — ranging from art exhibits through the plant propagation program to Paseo por Descanso — that she was also named a Distinguished Volunteer, one of only 13 special awards granted this year. Incidentally, Mrs. Dunn probably inherited her generous community spirit from her mother, Carrita Nelson, who received the Humanitarian Award during the ceremony for 33 years of service to the General Hospital, UAC-USC Medical Center.

## LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia

**JULY 6, 7 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Cactus and Succulent Show

Cactus & Succulent Society of America

**JULY 14 — 6 to 10:30 p.m.**

Picnic - Concert

Nancy Wilson

**JULY 13, 14 — Saturday 1 to 4:30 p.m.**

Sunday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Miniature Rose Show

San Gabriel Valley Rose and

Horticultural Society

**JULY 20, 21 — Saturday 1 to 4:30 p.m.**

Sunday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Begonia Show

American Begonia Society

**JULY 26-31 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

July 31 until 2 p.m.

Art Exhibit

Mid-Valley Arts League

**AUGUST 17, 18 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Art Exhibit

Pomona Valley Arts League

**AUGUST 31 - SEPT. 2 — 9 a.m. to**

4:30 p.m.

Fern Show

Los Angeles International Fern Society

**SEPTEMBER 13 — 5:30 to 11 p.m.**

QUEEN ANNE FROLIC

California Arboretum Foundation

**SEPTEMBER 22 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Turtle and Tortoise Show

California Turtle and Tortoise Club —

Foothill Chapter

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER

**SEPTEMBER 28, 29 — 9 a.m. to**

4:30 p.m.

Bonsai Show

Akebono Bonsai Society

All events sponsored by the California Arboretum Foundation

## DESCANSO GARDENS, La Canada

**JULY 7 — 2 p.m.**

Performing Arts Program

Call for details

**JULY 14 — 2 p.m.**

Performing Arts Program

**JULY 21 — 2 p.m.**

Performing Arts Program

**JULY 28 — 2 p.m.**

Performing Arts Program

**AUGUST 4 — 2 p.m.**

Performing Arts Program

**AUGUST 11 — 2 p.m.**

Performing Arts Program

**AUGUST 18 — 2 p.m.**

Performing Arts Program

**SEPTEMBER 22 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Antique Car Show

Horseless Carriage Club of

Southern California

All events sponsored by the Descanso Garden Guild

## SOUTH COAST BOTANIC

## GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula

**JULY 7 — 2 p.m.**

Herb Lecture

Kirby Davis of the Herb Society

**JULY 14 — 2 p.m.**

Flower Arranging Demonstration

Elinor Keefe of the Gardeneers Club

**JULY 21 — 2 p.m.**

Fern Demonstration

Fern expert John Myers

**JULY 28 — 2 p.m.**

Lawn Care Lecture

Horticulturist/Instructor

Charles Redding

**AUGUST 11 — 2 p.m.**

Plant Film and Discussion

Dorothy Bohannon

**AUGUST 17, 18 — Sat., noon to 5 p.m.**

Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dahlia Show

South Coast Dahlia Society

**AUGUST 25 — 2 p.m.**

Fall Rose Care Lecture

Horticulturist/Rosarian

Virginia Carlson

All events sponsored by the

So. Coast Botanic Garden Foundation